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United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The second year of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, 2014-2024, saw a new and significant commitment when Member States agreed on the first-ever goal on energy, Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. In the light of that development, the Decade should now support the achievement of Goal 7 as a global advocacy and outreach platform, to be fully utilized by Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. Building on experiences from the first two years of the Decade, the present report highlights activities undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate action towards Goal 7, including action by Member States, efforts of the United Nations system, including UN-Energy, to enhance coherence and the leveraging of multi-stakeholder efforts, such as through the new Sustainable Energy for All not-for-profit organization. To further strengthen accountability and international cooperation, Member States may consider maximizing synergies across resolutions that are relevant to energy in order to promote holistic support for the implementation of Goal 7 and its nexus with other Sustainable Development Goals.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/201, in which the Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and requested the Secretary-General to provide, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, an updated report on the progress of the activities of the Decade, relevant activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional, administrative and financial arrangements and accountability arrangements with regard to reporting to Member States and other stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

II. Facilitating progress towards Goal 7

2. On 1 January 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially came into effect (see General Assembly resolution 70/1). Over the next 15 years, in order to implement the 17 Goals, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

3. Goal 7, on energy, with its targets regarding access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the means of implementation, represents a watershed in global efforts towards ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, developed and developing countries alike. Achieving Goal 7 and its targets can create significant synergies and simultaneously advance many other Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, economic growth and the empowerment of youth and women, while combating climate change. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is fundamental to human development and is also a necessary investment in our collective future.

4. A global indicator framework, established by the Statistical Commission as a practical starting point, facilitates the global monitoring of progress, including for Goal 7 (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1). Progress towards the Goal remains uneven, with much more effort needed at all levels, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2016/75).

5. The proportion of the global population with access to electricity has increased steadily, from 79 per cent in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2012. Still, 1.1 billion people are without this valuable service. There are also 3 billion people who are still relying on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking, such as solid fuels and kerosene. The share of renewable energy (derived from hydropower, solid and liquid biofuels, wind, the sun, biogas, geothermal and marine sources and waste) in the world's total final energy consumption has increased slowly, from 17.4 per cent in 2000 to 18.1 per cent in 2012. Energy intensity, calculated by dividing total primary energy supply by GDP, decreased by 1.7 per cent per year from 2010 to 2012. This represents a considerable improvement over the period from 1990 to 2010, yet more action is required to be on track towards this global target.

6. Global investment in areas covered by the three targets was estimated at around $400 billion in 2010, while requirements are, at minimum, in the range of between $1 trillion and $1.2 trillion annually, requiring a tripling of current flows.

7. In order to meet the universal access objective by 2030, a fivefold increase in capital is needed, from an investment of $9 billion, in real terms, in 2010, to an annual $45 billion until 2030. For modern cooking solutions, a serious effort is required to increase the capital available by 4,400 per cent, from $0.1 billion in 2010 to $4.4 billion annually until 2030, to meet the objective.

8. To achieve the targets relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy, approximately $500 billion per year would be required above the level of investment in 2010. The shortfall of investment in energy efficiency is substantially larger than the shortfall of investment in renewable energy. Global investment in renewable power capacity, at $265.8 billion in 2015, was more than double the allocations to new coal and gas generation, which were an estimated $130 billion for the same year.

9. The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, 2014-2024, declared by the General Assembly in 2012, in resolution 67/215, is an invaluable global platform for facilitating the achievement of Goal 7, by highlighting action, lessons learned and solutions to support the push towards making sustainable energy for all a reality, in line with the strategic objectives of the global plan of action for the Decade (see A/69/395, sect. III). In that context, the present report highlights activities undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders to accelerate action towards Goal 7, including actions by Member States and efforts by the United Nations system to enhance coherence, leverage multi-stakeholder efforts by working with the new Sustainable Energy for All not-for-profit organization and strengthen accountability and international cooperation.

III. Accelerating action

10. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/215, stressed the need for a coherent and integrated approach to energy issues and sustainable development, which has set the stage for a greater emphasis on long-term energy sustainability. The Decade of Sustainable Energy for All is indicative of an era when Member States have a rising interest in energy issues and recognize the importance of providing modern energy access to all, increasing the use of renewable energy resources and improving energy efficiency.

A. Member States

11. As reported to the Secretariat, Member States undertook a wide variety of activities and initiatives in support of the Decade. While those actions cover a broad range of areas, they all contribute significantly to the acceleration of the necessary transformation of global energy systems, both domestically and internationally. Input regarding Member State contributions towards the objectives of the Decade were received from Botswana, Colombia, Germany, Maldives and Saudi Arabia.

Botswana

12. The challenge for the quantification of Botswana's contribution to the Decade's ambitious objectives is that there are no statistics readily available to allow for a better analysis of the effort. In this respect, the Government of Botswana, in collaboration with key stakeholders, has redoubled its efforts and is now rebuilding its capacity to deliver statistics on energy.

13. With regard to access to energy, the Government of Botswana has connected 377 out of 492 villages (76.6 per cent) to the national electricity grid, through a village electrification programme. In addition, through the National Electricity Standard Connection Cost programme, the cost of connecting to the grid has been reduced by more than 75 per cent. In order to effectively implement that programme, the Government approved the establishment of a National Electrification Fund. Fuelwood is still the main source of power used for cooking and lighting by rural and poor communities, yet it is not adequately available for such communities. A national oil company, Botswana Oil Limited, was established in 2013 in order to, among other things, ensure the security of fuel supply for Botswana. Among other responsibilities, the company has been tasked with ensuring the equitable supply and distribution of petroleum products, including liquefied petroleum gas.

14. In terms of renewable energy, several solar-powered water-heating systems have been installed in Government institution residential houses throughout Botswana. Unfortunately, however, most of the systems are not functioning, owing to a variety of reasons such as the poor quality of the systems installed, the lack of maintenance of the equipment, insufficient technical knowledge and the lack of regulations. Small solar-powered electric home systems have also been installed throughout Botswana by local authorities, in areas where there is no grid electricity. Solar-powered street lights have been piloted around the country and it is estimated that approximately 150 such lights have been installed through various programmes. Solar power for water-pumping has been installed in national parks and about 30 such systems are operational in the parks. New and ongoing projects include powering 61 primary schools, in villages without grid electricity, through the use of photovoltaic systems, the establishment of a renewable energy agency to undertake the implementation of programmes, the establishment of an independent power producer unit to undertake large renewable energy projects and a joint cooperation initiative between Botswana and Japan entailing a five-year research project for the production of biodiesel.

15. In the area of energy efficiency, the Government of Botswana, with the support of the World Bank, is developing an energy efficiency strategy. The exercise started in November 2015 and six goals have been set. The goals are (a) improving the availability of information and awareness of potential benefits of energy efficiency; (b) building capacity and improving coordination around energy efficiency in key institutions; (c) promoting energy efficiency in new and existing housing; (d) promoting energy efficiency in new and existing government buildings and institutions; (e) promoting energy efficiency in new and existing industrial facilities; and (f) keeping local institutions informed of local, regional and international developments regarding the feasibility of implementing different energy efficiency incentives.

16. The Government of Botswana has endeavoured, with support from the African Development Bank, to develop a road map for the realization of the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All agenda. The approach for its implementation is being discussed.

Colombia

17. With regard to ensuring universal access to modern energy services, through the development of the National Development Plan for 2014-2018 (law No. 1753 of 2015), the Government of Colombia increased funding for the expansion of electricity services through electricity networks and off-grid solutions and facilitated the establishment of a new instrument for the implementation of those resources. According to the results of the indicative electricity coverage expansion plan for 2013-2017, issued by the national Mining and Energy Planning Unit, there are currently 470,000 families without service. The goal is to connect 31 per cent of them by mid-2018.

18. The Government of Colombia has worked to develop a regulatory framework to allow service providers to invest in market expansion. To that end, the Government developed a resolution regarding remuneration for the commercialization of electricity, as well as a new methodology for payment for activities relating to the distribution of electricity and the provision of services to areas that are not connected to the grid. In addition, the Government is collaborating with an investment bank to develop business models for the provision of services in several regions.

19. With the aim of achieving a 100 per cent increase in the energy efficiency rate, the Government of Colombia is working on redesigning its energy efficiency policy through the identification of the technical and economic potential, in terms of national added value, of a 9 per cent reduction in energy consumption. Key components of the public policy proposal for energy efficiency are: (a) organizing and strengthening institutions; (b) improving access to information and market transparency through an energy efficiency information management system; (c) incentivizing energy management in all economic sectors as a means of reducing costs, increasing productivity and competitiveness and contributing to climate change mitigation; (d) promoting the creation of energy services companies; and (e) creating energy efficiency certificates as incentives for energy companies and wholesalers.

20. In terms of sharing the knowledge and experience acquired in renewable energy, at the global level, Colombia is currently a member of several international organizations in the renewable energy arena, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Latin American Energy Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Energy Council. Through those organizations, Colombia is able to share its experiences and also benefit from other countries' experiences. It is important that the sharing of experiences among countries takes into account the specific conditions of each country, the fact that energy resources vary from region to region and the different incentives, public policies and regulatory frameworks existing in each country.

Germany

21. In accordance with Goal 7 and as part of its development cooperation activities, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany strives to foster global energy transitions in partner countries and contribute to the decarbonisation of the world economy.

22. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development is involved with a variety of multilateral organizations, forums and initiatives, as part of efforts to help shape the international dialogue on a forward-looking energy policy, among which are the Group of Seven and the Group of 20, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, the International Renewable Energy Conferences or the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century. The Group of Seven, under the Presidency of Germany, in 2015, expressed strong support for the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, which aims to achieve 10 GW of capacity in renewable energies in Africa by 2020. German development cooperation efforts also support the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program of the World Bank.

23. Energy constitutes the focus area for bilateral cooperation with 35 countries worldwide. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development supports the expansion of infrastructure and the deployment of sustainable and secure energy systems by providing technical and financial support. Energy represents the Ministry's largest portfolio, with a volume of more than 4 billion euro over the past two years.

24. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development supports the fight against energy poverty in the least developed countries in Africa through such multilateral initiatives as the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, the "Energising Development" partnership and the Africa-European Union Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme.

25. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development also contributes to the mobilization of private capital through various tailor-made instruments, including the "GET FiT" programme in East Africa, Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility, the Africa-European Union Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme, the Renewable Energy Development Company and the Regional Liquidity Support Facility.

Maldives

26. Maldives is one of the few countries in the South Asia region that has achieved 24-hour electricity access countrywide. Almost all of its energy generation is still based on imported fossil fuel and each island, including both the inhabited islands and the uninhabited islands used for industrial and agricultural purposes, has its own separate power generation facility. In order to reduce dependency on imports of fossil fuel, increase energy security and transform the energy sector, an ambitious programme for scaling up the production of renewable energy was launched by the Government. The key features of the Government's national energy policy include providing all citizens with access to affordable and reliable electricity services, increasing energy security, promoting energy efficiency and conservation and moving towards the target of a renewable energy-based electricity supply.

27. With the endorsement in 2012 of the investment plan for the programme for scaling up renewable energy, the Government began the transformation of the energy sector from a fossil fuel-based sector into a low-carbon energy sector. Renewable energy capacity will be scaled up from the current 4 MW to about 21 MW. A road map for the transition to renewable energy was developed in 2014 and is to be implemented by 2019.

28. In addition to renewable energy projects launched by the Government, other initiatives were introduced by the Government to encourage private sector involvement in renewable energy, which include the introduction of a net metering regulation and the launch of a "Green Fund" by the Bank of Maldives. Under the Net Metering Regulation of December 2015, consumers will be able to invest in the production of energy for themselves by means of renewable sources. As part of the Bank of Maldives plan to encourage investment in environment-friendly green technologies, on 28 February 2016 the Bank launched a concessional loan product, known as the "green loan", for individuals and businesses. The loan will be available for individuals and business seeking to finance environmentally friendly technologies such as solar panels for power generation, photovoltaic panels and systems, or energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

29. The transformation of the energy sector in Maldives also includes promoting energy efficiency through energy efficiency programmes, in terms of both supply side and demand, and the elimination of electricity subsidies. After a long history of subsidizing electricity consumption, as a result of the high cost of energy linked to the reliance on imports and the lack of diversification in energy sources, in 2016 the Government totally discontinued such subsidies, including subsidies provided to household consumers.

Saudi Arabia

30. Saudi Arabia is strongly committed to achieving the overarching goal of ensuring access to sustainable modern energy that contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide basic human needs, taking into account goals relating to sustainable development and climate change. To that end, it is important to highlight that, given the different circumstances and national priorities of countries, the notion of a transition as regards moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy undermines countries with a dependence on fossil fuel and also limits the options for energy access. In order to ultimately advance universal objectives, Saudi Arabia supports the transition from a system that emits greenhouse gases to one that does not.

31. In that regard, Saudi Arabia also reaffirms its support for the implementation of national policies and strategies, based on individual national circumstances and development aspirations, using an appropriate energy mix to meet development needs, including through the increased use of renewable energy sources and other low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy and greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies.

32. Moreover, understanding that market mechanisms, fossil fuel subsidy reform, carbon pricing and "brown to green" policies are issues of controversy and ongoing discussion, where no universal consensus has been reached, such mechanisms should not be singled out as the only effective measures for bridging the energy demand gap, as they would likely confine the options of those most in need of

energy. Such policies should be designed on a national level and take into account national priorities and circumstances. Ultimately, the overriding priority should be to bridge the energy demand gap in order to ensure universal access to energy. In that respect, the approach should be inclusive, offering all available options to those most in need so as to improve their access to energy, which they desperately need.

B. United Nations system

Economic Commission for Africa

33. The Economic Commission for Africa is implementing a project that explores and promotes the development of modern biofuels in Africa, to support the Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines of the African Union Commission. In 2015, countries received technical assistance on how they could develop and modernize the modern biofuels sector, especially with regard to policy and regulatory assistance and the packaging of projects and proposals.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

34. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat continues to provide support to developing countries so as to facilitate their transition to a sustainable energy future. By working with a broad range of stakeholders, including international and United Nations system organizations and partnerships, national and subnational authorities, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia and others, the secretariat supports the technical examination of policy options with high mitigation potential and adaptation, health and sustainable development co-benefits.

United Nations Development Programme

35. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports projects and programmes that assist governments and their development partners in a range of activities: scaling up off-grid, mini-grid and decentralized grid-connected energy solutions; establishing optimal policy, regulatory and financial frameworks for energy service provision; strengthening energy supply chains through capacity development, standardization and training for users and technical providers; creating income-generating and entrepreneur opportunities in the energy sector; applying innovative financial approaches, such as microfinance, to energy services; and developing national and local capacities to implement and monitor the results of energy access policies and programmes. Through its resident coordinator system, UNDP will play a key role in mobilizing key constituencies at the country level in support of the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

World Bank Group

36. World Bank Group engagement in the energy sector is designed to help client countries secure the affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supply needed to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. World Bank Group energy financing totalled $6.5 billion in 2015. Of that amount, about $2.4 billion was for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and programmes. Examples of programmes supported by the World Bank Group include a solar park in Jordan, the largest private sector-led solar power initiative in the Middle East and North Africa,

a national electrification plan in Myanmar, creating 7.2 million new household connections over the next 15 years, and a project known as "Lighting Africa" aimed at reaching 250 million more people by 2030. The World Bank Group is also supporting the Sustainable Energy for All initiative through its Knowledge Hub, which includes the second edition of the Global Tracking Framework.

United Nations Environment Programme

37. The work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on energy aims at transforming the way we produce and use energy, mainly by bringing a sustainability dimension into energy sector decision-making and investment. Its main programmes include initiatives on renewable energy, energy efficiency, decentralized energy solutions, transport, buildings, cities, short-lived climate pollutants, sustainability criteria, networks and partnerships, and energy and climate finance. UNEP hosts the Centre on Energy Efficiency, a thematic hub for energy efficiency, as part of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and as a satellite to the UNEP DTU Partnership Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development (formerly UNEP Risoe Centre).

World Health Organization

38. The World Health Organization (WHO) has produced indoor air quality guidelines on household fuel combustion and is currently developing a clean household energy policy planning tool, which provides health-based guidance for policymakers and implementers in order to facilitate the adoption of clean fuels and technologies for use in the home. WHO also coordinated efforts to enhance and harmonize the monitoring of indicators relating to Goal 7, as regards access to clean cooking solutions. The new urban health initiative of WHO aims to strengthen capacity to use data on health as evidence to advocate and implement plans to improve energy access and energy efficiency in large urban areas of developing countries, with the aim of reducing air pollution.

World Meteorological Organization

39. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Framework for Climate Services addresses issues relating to user requirements for climate information and energy. WMO is partnering with the International Renewable Energy Agency to develop the Global Solar and Wind Atlas.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

40. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations multi-partner programme, entitled "Energy-smart food for people and climate", seeks to promote improved energy efficiency, more diverse energy sources in food production, with a gradual increase in the use of renewable energy, and to improve modern energy access in agrifood chains, including through supporting countries in the assessment of the nexus between water, energy and food in the context of climate change, improving access to affordable modern energy services at different stages of the agrifood chain, in particular, with the aim of reducing food losses, with an emphasis on post-harvest stages, improving the sustainability of production and use of energy in emergency and/or rehabilitation situations and supporting the promotion of sustainable bioenergy through the availability of a support package on sustainable

bioenergy, and its role as secretariat and active partner of the Global Bioenergy Partnership.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

41. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to promote sustainable energy solutions for inclusive and sustainable industrial development through the delivery of technical assistance. In 2015, the sustainable energy portfolio of UNIDO amounted to $275 million in grant funding, with $1.5 billion in planned co-financing, encompassing wide coverage for more than 90 programmes and projects relating to renewable energy, energy efficiency and low-carbon technology, centred on three strategic pillars, namely, renewable energy for productive uses, industrial energy efficiency and climate policy and networks. UNIDO is championing the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres and co-organized the 2015 Vienna Energy Forum 2015.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

42. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development implements a work programme on energy, trade and development based on three pillars of work: (a) policy-oriented research and analysis; (b) consensus-building; and (c) technical cooperation. Its energy commodity development programme focuses on reducing information asymmetry for increased energy access and efficiency, promoting natural gas in the global energy mix, increasing local participation for reducing energy poverty, negotiating contracts for improved access to energy services, mitigating the impact of energy price volatility for universal access to energy, and developing and promoting trade, competition and investment policy for energy development.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

43. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) strategy in relation to energy focuses around: (a) education and capacity-building; (b) sharing best practices in related science, technology and innovation; and (c) promoting energy-related policies and strategies. UNESCO launched a project concerning the solar-powered electrification of 75 rural schools in Benin, Madagascar, Mauritania, the Niger and Togo, benefiting approximately 600 teachers and 24,600 schoolchildren.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

44. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues to play a key role in the coordination of activities of UN-Energy, as the secretariat for UN-Energy, and supports the coordination and implementation of planned activities for the Decade.

45. The Department, in cooperation with other United Nations organizations, has coordinated three regional expert group meetings in the context of UN-Energy and coordinated the publishing of a report by UN-Energy in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. UN-Energy has continued to play an instrumental role in enhancing coherence across the United Nations system around the topic of energy and in supporting the coordination and implementation of planned activities for the Decade.

46. In 2015 and 2016, UN-Energy, in cooperation with its member organizations, has coordinated regional expert group meetings and workshops to focus on the implementation of the targets of energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency set out in Goal 7. The meetings took place in Ethiopia, the Republic of Korea, Panama and Thailand.

47. The Department, in its role as the secretariat for UN-Energy, also launched a new partnership programme, entitled "Powering the Future We Want: recognizing leadership and innovative practices in energy for sustainable development", offering a grant in the amount of $1 million to fund future capacity development activities in relation to energy for sustainable development. It is being implemented for an initial period of five years, from 2015 until 2019. The Department is also leading a public-private partnership on minimum electricity access that promotes electrification in rural isolated communities with stand-alone renewable energy systems.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

48. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) strategic approach, in line with the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, focuses on urban energy planning, municipal energy policy and legislation and urban energy finance; energy access for the urban poor, with a special emphasis on women and youth; energy and resource efficiency in the built environment; and renewable energy technologies in the urban energy mix.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

49. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, an online interactive platform that provides data visualization capabilities and draws a comprehensive energy picture from a number of sources. To date, over 2,000 policy measures have been made available through the portal. ESCAP also implements a multi-year project to widen access to modern energy services for rural communities through its Pro-Poor Public-Private Partnership, with pilot projects in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal.

50. During the seventy-first session of ESCAP, the Commission adopted its resolution 71/1, in which it decided to create a Committee on Energy. The second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum will be held in 2018, in Tonga.

Economic Commission for Europe

51. The initiatives of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) promote dialogue and knowledge-sharing and facilitate expert networking on sustainable energy to enhance intraregional and interregional cooperation. The Commission's subprogramme on sustainable energy, through its Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsidiary bodies, implements a programme of work in the field of sustainable energy. ECE is advancing the development, dissemination, and maintenance of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources, a global classification system for energy and mineral reserves and resources. In 2015, the Commission's Group of Experts on Renewable Energy prepared a "Renewable Energy Status Report" for selected number of countries that are members of ECE, in close collaboration with the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century and the International Energy Agency.

52. The regional commissions, under the leadership of ECE, convened the Sixth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Yerevan, from 29 September to 2 October 2015. Like the Fifth International Forum, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in November 2014, the Sixth Forum reiterated that the United Nations was working to help Member States advance the global goals of universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Forum considered how to operationalize the Declaration adopted at the Fifth International Forum and signed by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions in 2014. In their joint statement, they affirmed that the objectives of energy sustainability were attainable and need not contradict more short-term considerations, if the world embarks on a determined, collective effort. The joint statement is a call for action to their respective Member States, highlighting in particular three key components: (a) energy efficiency, in most countries, needs to be improved more rapidly; (b) renewable energy policies need to be redesigned; and (c) equitable access to modern energy services requires mobilizing adequate resources.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

53. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has been coordinating with the relevant ministries and authorities of member States in addressing and responding to regional energy challenges. ESCWA launched programmes relating to the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, for the Arab region, in Amman, in March 2015. In addition, ESCWA, in collaboration with ECE, launched the implementation of a project on promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

54. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) emphasizes income generation by linking access to clean energy to agriculture-related activities. IFAD has developed country- and technology-specific pilot approaches, such as those relating to microhydropower in Nepal, jatropha biofuel in Mali and a solar-powered drip irrigation system project in northern Benin.

United Nations Capital Development Fund

55. The United Nations Capital Development Fund, through its Clean Start programme, supports households and micro-entrepreneurs through microfinance service providers, with the goal of enabling over 2.5 million people to benefit from cleaner, more efficient energy by 2017. Currently, the programme collaborates with 18 financial service providers in Asia and Africa.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

56. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research is playing a lead role in the roll-out of the Sustainable Development Goals through the provision of training, awareness-raising and materials for diplomats from developing countries, as well as for key officials from all Member States, across all branches of government. The activities include training and support in relation to Goal 7. Training is made available through both e-learning and face-to-face events.

United Nations Children's Fund

57. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is increasingly applying sustainable energy solutions in its country office programmes of cooperation and is in the process of exploring possibilities to scale up its involvement and investments in that area. Such initiatives include providing improved cookstoves in Bangladesh, Project Lumière in Burundi and "youth kiosks" and "MobiStations" in Uganda. In 2015, UNICEF launched a paper on "Why sustainable energy matters to children: the critical importance of sustainable energy for children and future generations".

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All

58. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All has been active in promoting the importance of achieving Goal 7 and the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative both as a contribution to other goals, but also with a view to making the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change a reality. The Special Representative has reached out to all the multilateral development banks to discuss their lending priorities and partnerships, so as to ensure that finance and knowledge flows support the urgency of the energy transition. The Special Representative has focused on ensuring that leaders are aware of the progress being made and opportunities as a result of new technologies, new business models and the state of financing for Sustainable Energy for All. For example, at the annual meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank, in 2016, the Special Representative was able to lay out the progress being made in renewable energy across the region and the possibilities for further action and further policy reform.

C. Multi-stakeholder efforts

59. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative, following discussions among its stakeholders, has established itself as a quasi-international organization, known as "Sustainable Energy for All", which is not-for-profit and is based in Vienna. As a platform for government, businesses, financiers, civil society and others, it is focused on achieving its goal of Sustainable Energy for All, with objectives that closely mirror those set out in Goal 7. Its purpose is to support governments and other partners in accelerating the implementation of efforts relating to sustainable energy, accepting that the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted by Member States in December 2015 (subsequent to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in September 2015), adds urgency to the energy transition necessary to ensure everyone has access to affordable, clean and modern energy.

60. A strategic framework for the organization has been developed and seeks to help partners with priority pathways for the transition. Focusing on the need for energy efficiency first, the placement of energy access at the heart of transitions and a shift in the energy mix, Sustainable Energy for All is working closely with partners to ensure greater cooperation and coordination in support of countries' efforts. It is placing significant emphasis on the financial value chain that will need to be in place to support country action. Mapping and understanding financial flows for transitions to sustainable energy for all will be a key way in which to support the

financial community, domestically and internationally, as well as countries and the private sector to ensure that finance is able to flow to all parts of the energy system.

61. Sustainable Energy for All works with regional and thematic hubs and has formed a knowledge partnership to ensure the sharing of ongoing knowledge and analysis to support action. The ongoing and newly commissioned knowledge work will form the backbone to Sustainable Energy for All forums, with the next one to be held in 2017, the results of which will inform the work of the United Nations system and Member States to support the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other activities to understand progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

62. Sustainable Energy for All works closely with entities across the United Nations system. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides a point of contact for Sustainable Energy for All with the secretariat. The organization works closely with UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and WHO among others, on issues of efficiency, access to renewable energy, sustainable energy to support sustainable industrialization and the health impact of delays in the sustainable energy transition.

63. The global team for Sustainable Energy for All is dedicated to marshalling evidence, benchmarking progress and sharing success stories in order to support the partners working on the platform of sustainable energy.

64. Multi-stakeholder engagements and activities have come from all regions and through a myriad of platforms. While it is not possible to be exhaustive in referring to such activities, some of the notable examples of such engagement include: the second Sustainable Energy for All Forum (2015); the Vienna Energy Forum; the Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency; the Sustainable Energy Policy and Investment High-level Forum of the Economic Community of West African States, held in Abidjan (2015); the meetings of the Energy Ministers of the Group of 20, held in Istanbul and in Beijing (2015 and 2016, respectively); the Sustainable Energy for All Global Energy Efficiency Forum on Cities, held in Tokyo (2015); the Clean Cooking Forum, held in Ghana (2015); the South African International Renewable Energy Conference (2015); the World Future Energy Summit, held in Abu Dhabi (2016); the Global Green Growth Forum, held in Copenhagen (2016); the third Iceland Geothermal Conference, held in Reykjavik (2016); the International Finance Cooperation's eighteenth annual Global Private Equity Conference, held in Washington, D.C. (2016); the Energy Efficiency Global Forum, held in Washington, D.C. (2016); the seventh Clean Energy Ministerial, held in San Francisco, United States of America (2016); the Future of Energy Summit, held in New York (2016); the Climate Action Summit, held in Washington, D.C. (2016); the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2016); the annual meeting of the African Development Bank (2016); the Sustainable Energy Week of the European Union, held in Brussels (2016); the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey (2016); and at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015), with its dedicated thematic "Energy Day" co-organized by Sustainable Energy for All, in partnership with France and the International Renewable Energy Agency. Further activities and events are scheduled to be held in 2016, around the world.

IV. Facilitating United Nations system-wide support

65. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 7, United Nations system coherence, cooperation and synergies in the area of energy become more important than ever. Goal 7 and its link to other Sustainable Development Goals provides the overall narrative and coherent framework for the system's efforts in the area of energy. Activities by the United Nations system in response to the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative are also being mainstreamed in the context of Goal 7.

66. By bringing together relevant parts of the United Nations system, UN-Energy can play an enhanced role in ensuring coherence, coordination and the effectiveness of system efforts to support Member States in their implementation, follow-up and review of Goal 7 and related elements of the 2030 Agenda.

67. UN-Energy is the principal United Nations mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy. Consisting of over 25 United Nations system organizations and related organizations, it helps ensure coherence in the United Nations system's multidisciplinary approach to energy and to support countries in their transition to sustainable energy. It also aims to increase the sharing of information; maintain an overview of ongoing and planned work within the system and build and strengthen synergies among independent initiatives; organize regular exchanges of views on policy in the field of energy and related activities, as well as developing partnerships; develop a database on the roles, potentials, strengths and programmes of relevant stakeholders; encourage and facilitate joint programming; and develop action-oriented approaches to coordination.

68. Building on its role as a mechanism for the United Nations system's interaction with other stakeholders, UN-Energy can also facilitate interactions between the formal United Nations processes such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and multi-stakeholder efforts, and between Member States and other relevant stakeholders engaged in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda.

69. In working towards Goal 7, the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All continues to offer a global advocacy and outreach platform to enhance momentum in this area, including with its 2019 and 2024 as potential milestones for stocktaking on the road to 2030. Member States have called for the rapid implementation of the global plan of action for the Decade and its strategic objectives. The Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All will also support the Secretary-General in advocacy and outreach efforts. The Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy for All, consisting of over 30 permanent representatives in New York, have thus far played an instrumental role in bolstering advocacy across Member States on the issues related to energy and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and in future, could be a useful advocacy platform in support of work towards Goal 7 and its links to other Sustainable Development Goals.

70. The Advisory Board for Sustainable Energy for All, co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group, can become a useful instrument to leverage the power of a diverse set of high-level stakeholders in order to provide overall advice, through its co-chairs, on the achievement of Goal 7. At its fifth meeting, held in June 2016 in Brussels, the Advisory Board members expressed their willingness to continue its role.

71. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs supports the Secretary-General in coordinating the activities of the Decade, facilitates UN-Energy as its secretariat, provides support for the Special Representative and supports the activities of the Advisory Board, together with the World Bank.

V. Leveraging multi-stakeholder efforts, including the relationship with the Sustainable Energy for All not-for-profit organization

72. Multi-stakeholder action is central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Since its establishment in 2011 and to date, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has offered a global implementation platform for all stakeholders to catalyse major new efforts and investments towards enhancing energy access, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy on the ground.

73. In 2016, actors external to the United Nations established a new not-for-profit, quasi-international organization, known as Sustainable Energy for All, headquartered in Vienna, with the aim of advancing multi-stakeholder action in support of the objectives of the original Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

74. Sustainable Energy for All, with its own distinct governance structure under Austrian law, is administratively, financially and institutionally independent from the United Nations. It will work with all stakeholders to catalyse new action, new investments and new partnerships. Discussions are under way between the United Nations and the new organization on forging a working relationship between the two entities.

75. Sustainable Energy for All, as a global multi-stakeholder platform, will offer robust means for enhancing multi-stakeholder contributions to the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the organization submitted multi-stakeholder input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2016.

76. The Global Tracking Framework, led by the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and over 20 other organizations, provides a global compilation of the data sets, methodologies and analysis in line with the indicators for Goal 7 (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1) and is an example of multi-stakeholder contributions to support the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

77. UN-Energy, with other United Nations system organizations, will continue to closely collaborate with the Global Tracking Framework consortium to ensure strong synergies with the Secretary-General's annual progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

VI. Strengthening international cooperation and accountability

78. In Goal 7, target 7.a calls for enhanced international cooperation as part of its means for implementing the Goal. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex) also calls for enhanced international cooperation in the area of energy. The Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity-

building in the least developed countries noted the need for a long-term, global energy framework, under the umbrella of the United Nations.

79. Thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals at the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums. This makes enhanced international cooperation even more relevant as Goal 7 is expected to be discussed in depth for the first time, at the high-level political forum, in 2018.

80. At the regional level, three of the regional commissions, namely, ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA, have established intergovernmental committees on energy. ESCAP held the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in the Russian Federation, in 2013, with a second Forum to be held in Tonga in 2018. Supported by all five regional commissions, a seventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development is to be held in Baku, in October 2016.

81. At the global level, there is currently no inclusive, universal and intergovernmental platform on energy. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, created in the mid-1990s, was incorporated into the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2002. The last inclusive intergovernmental United Nations conference on energy was the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held in Nairobi, in 1981.

82. In considering options for enhanced international cooperation on energy, lessons can also be drawn from other areas such as oceans (e.g., the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in Fiji in 2017), water and sanitation (e.g., recommendations of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation that an intergovernmental committee on water and sanitation be established).

VII. Conclusions and the way forward

83. With the 2030 Agenda now in place, the time has come to consolidate efforts and move swiftly from commitments to actions. Strong, inclusive and integrated partnerships at all levels will be needed to scale up efforts, catalyse investment and build capacity for implementation and monitoring.

84. The United Nations system stands ready to support Member States as they move towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, UN-Energy supports Goal 7, and remains committed to strengthening coordination, coherence and related synergies in this area.

85. Member States may also want to consider maximizing synergies across resolutions that are relevant to energy, in order to strengthen global intergovernmental dialogues and cooperation on energy and promote holistic support for the implementation of Goal 7 and its nexus with other Sustainable Development Goals.